



HOWARD COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 237 ■ Columbia, Maryland 21046 ■ 410-313-6430
FAX 410-313-6468 Voice/Relay

Yolanda F. Sonnier, Executive Secretary
Chaunta Taylor, Recording Secretary
Joshua Kaufman, Correspondence Secretary
HRC Email: hrc@howardcountymd.gov

Scott B Markow, Chairperson
Chuen-Chin Bianca Chang, Vice Chair
Mabrooka Chaudhry, Commissioner
Lynda Earle, Commissioner
Bob Ford, Commissioner
Joan Hash, Commissioner
Peter Hwang, Commissioner
Leslie Salgado-Tamayo, Commissioner
Gabriel Terrasa, Commissioner
Kui Zhao, Commissioner

Statement from the Howard County Human Rights Commission Regarding Crimes Committed on February 11, 2021

February 22, 2021

The Howard County Human Rights Commission condemns in the strongest of terms the recent attacks on six businesses in Howard County on February 11, 2021, which underscores the immediate need for protection of our business communities. Human Rights Commissioners are particularly sensitive about crimes directed towards businesses owned by minorities.

According to various official sources, four Asian-owned establishments - Bonchon Chicken (Korean), Urban Hot Pot (Chinese), East Moon Asian Bistro (Chinese), and Kung Fu Tea (Chinese) - were burglarized and cash was stolen. Corner Bakery and Coal Fire Pizza, two other restaurants, were also damaged, but nothing was stolen.

We applaud and echo Howard County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball for his timely remarks on social media. In his heartfelt message to the entire community, Dr. Calvin Ball accentuated, "Today our community is saddened by a string of burglaries ... Our restaurant community is going through one of the toughest years ... To have these crimes occur during the beginning of Lunar New Year – a time of great celebration and joy – is additionally sad and distressing."

Although these acts have not been legally designated as hate crimes to date, recent history shows us that the number of hate crimes nationally have greatly increased, and our current political environment has emboldened those who wish to undermine our unity and vision which supports respect for all people regardless of race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

The Human Rights Commission unequivocally condemns these acts and believes that our posture as a County that stands unified in its condemnation of these despicable acts will send a loud message to those who would choose to act counter to our values of respect, inclusion, and equity.